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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member is giving very many details about this. I wish he passes over this information to the department so that proper action may be taken."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" What is the immediate cause for the transfer of this work from the Prohibition Department to the Police Department? Are we to understand that the Prohibition Department has completely failed? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir. This is not a sudden process. Already, the Police officers have been attending to Prohibition work in a majority of districts. We wanted to find out whether it will be possible to work the scheme with the regular police without having a special department. In view of the success of the working by the police in other districts, we are introducing it in the districts where there has been a special department so far."

Construction of a road between Devadanampettai and Kanakkancuppam.

* 370 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the road between Devadanampettai and Kanakkancuppam for a distance of about two miles has not yet been formed; and

(*b*) if so, when it will be formed?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) The stretch between Devadanampettai and Kanakkancuppam is part of the road from Alampoondy to Melavantagal. This stretch is in a bad state.

" (*b*) The District Board will improve the stretch as early as possible."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" We are requesting the District Board for the past twenty years. But the District Board has not taken any steps so far. Will the Government instruct the District Board to take up this work immediately? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Sir, once the road was formed but it was not properly maintained. Therefore, it has deteriorated. Now, the Special Officer has written that he will look into it and see that the road is repaired as early as possible."

Closure of gruel centres.

* 371 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the gruel centre at Madras as well as in the famine-stricken areas in other districts will be continued after the 1st April 1954 ; and

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(*b*) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of gruel centres for weavers and how many persons are fed daily in each centre?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) All the gruel centres in the State except the one in the City of Madras were closed by 31st December 1953 on account of the improvement in the seasonal conditions. The gruel centre for the migrant weavers at Madras will also be closed by 31st March 1954.

" (*b*) The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of gruel centres for weavers from the date of their starting up to the date of their closure was about Rs. 14·2 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 4,400 was spent up to 15th February 1954 in maintaining the gruel centre in the City of Madras which was opened for the relief of migrant weavers. This gruel centre now feeds about 250 persons daily."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் இந்தக் கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகளை பார்வையிட்டிருக்கிறாரா ? ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் எத்தனை ஔன்ஸ் கஞ்சி தரப்படுகிறது ? இப்பொழுது கோடைகாலம் ஆரம்பித்து விட்டபடியால் நெசவாளர்களுடைய துயரமும் மிக அதிகமாகிவிட்டது. ஆகவே கஞ்சித் தொட்டிகளில் கொஞ்சம் அதிகமாக கஞ்சி வழங்க சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir. I inspected the Care Camp which was opened recently at Melpakkam. There, not only kanji but a square meal is also given. At the end of this month, the gruel centre here will be closed and the migrants may be taken over to that camp."

Fair price shops run by Harijans in the City of Madras.

* 372 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Harijans gave up the running of fair price shops in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the reasons therefor;

(*c*) whether they are given any assistance or permits to conduct alternative business;

(*d*) whether their security deposits have been returned to them; and

(*e*) how many Harijans are still running fair price shops in the City?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) 22 (twenty-two).

" (*b*) Eleven shops were given up due to poor sales, six shops due to loss in business, four shops due to private reasons not specifically mentioned by the shop-keepers and one shop due to poor health of the shop-keeper.